



# Joseph Haiek

Publisher

## Documenting Arab-American Achievements

In 1974, when Joseph Haiek documented Arab-American accomplishments in the first Arab American Almanac, he compiled 96 pages. Today, the sixth edition has ballooned to a 608-page book about Arab Americans and their history, culture and contributions to society.

“Arab Americans are good citizens, and they are doers,” Haiek said in a recent interview. “They are not waiting for something to happen to them.”

Born in Jerusalem in 1932, Haiek immigrated to the United States in his 30s and became quite the “doer” himself. He studied marketing at Los Angeles City College and journalism at California State University in Los Angeles.

In 1972, he founded The News Circle Publishing House, which

today publishes the English-language *Arab American Affairs Magazine*, which covers both Arab Americans and Arab world news and views.

In 1978, he founded the nonprofit Arab American Historical Foundation, which promotes research and dissemination of Arab-American history and culture. It preserves an extensive collection of historical Arab-American books, publications, photos and video clips — a task Haiek is passionate about.

“We must perpetuate the legacy of our Arab-American culture and acknowledge our history and perspectives before we can expect others to respect and recognize our achievements and contributions in America,” Haiek said.

Haiek is also an advisory board member of the Arab American National Museum, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Arab American Press Guild.

In May 2011, Haiek received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor for his contributions to his community and the nation. The prestigious honor is recognized



by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and recipients are listed in the *U.S. Congressional Record*. The medal was established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, whose mission is to foster respect and understanding among religious and ethnic groups and to honor and preserve the cultural diversity that makes the United States a strong nation.

“Arab Americans are independent,” Haiek said. “They are proud of being Americans — and one of them is me.”

Top photo: Joseph Haiek in New York when he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition in 2011. Photo Courtesy of NECO, Gary Meyer Photography; Bottom photo © AP Images



# Prominent Arab Americans Featured in This Series



Abdu



Ahmed



El-Baz



Gaida



Akkad



DeBakey



Hayek



Kasem



Gibran



Haiek



Masry



McAuliffe



Khaled



Khannouchi



Said



Salama



Shihab Nye



Rihani



Shamieh



Zerhouni



Zewail



Tlaib

**Rashid Abdu**, Physician

**Ahmed Ahmed**, Comedian

**Moustapha Akkad**, Film Director

**Michael DeBakey**, Heart Surgeon

**Farouk El-Baz**, Geologist

**Gaida**, Singer

**Kahlil Gibran**, Artist and Poet

**Joseph Haiek**, Publisher

**Salma Hayek**, Actress

**Casey Kasem**, Radio Broadcaster

**DJ Khaled**, Rap Music Artist

**Khalid Khannouchi**, Marathon Runner

**Ferial Masry**, Community Activist

**Christa McAuliffe**, Teacher in Space

**Naomi Shihab Nye**, Author

**Ameen Rihani**, Poet

**Edward Said**, Author and Activist

**Kareem Salama**, Singer

**Betty Shamieh**, Playwright

**Rashida Tlaib**, Politician

**Elias Zerhouni**, Medical Vanguard

**Ahmed Zewail**, Chemist